March 5, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Monica Schechter
(805) 756-5964

Cal Poly Joins Study-Abroad Consortium, Increases Foreign Study Options for Students

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly is now a member of the University Studies Abroad Consortium, joining 29 associated universities offering 30 programs at host universities in 20 countries around the globe.

“Now that Cal Poly has ‘associated university’ status with USAC, it will not only simplify the enrollment process for students, but it will also assist us in expanding our study-abroad offerings to include seven additional countries,” said Monica Schechter, associate director for study-abroad and CSU International Programs in Cal Poly’s International Education and Programs Office.

New study-abroad locations for Cal Poly students include Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ghana, Ireland, Malta, Norway and Scotland.

The university’s new membership in USAC will also expand study-abroad opportunities to students in majors such as education, engineering, computer science, viticulture and women’s studies, along with internships, field studies, and community-involvement programs.

Cal Poly is already the leading university in the CSU system in terms of student participation in CSU International Programs, Schechter said.

Cal Poly sent 577 students abroad in 2001-02 and ranked third among the top 20 U.S. master’s degree institutions in the 2003 “Open Doors” study-abroad survey, reported by the Institute of International Education.

The university currently has a variety of ‘quarter abroad’ programs available to students of all majors; many satisfy general education course options, Schechter said. Existing programs include Cal Poly
Quarter at Sea, London Study, Thai Study and Valladolid Fall Studies.

Several colleges and departments also offer bilateral exchanges with a variety of universities on six of the world’s continents. These exchanges provide low-cost study-abroad experiences in the students’ own academic disciplines.

In addition to those university sponsored programs, Cal Poly has affiliation agreements with Denmark’s International Study Program and AustraLearn, a program placing students in Australia and New Zealand.

“The university’s International Education and Programs Office is committed to integrating study-abroad into all major disciplines across the curriculum,” stressed Schechter.

For more details on studying abroad, visit Cal Poly’s IEP Web site at www.calpoly.edu/~iep.

- # # # -